NEWS ANALYSIS 1-1380 SEPTEMBER 2, 1976
FRED GALVAN

U.S. SEEKS SEA-LAW IMPASSE BREAK

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES AMERICAN EFFORTS TO END THE DEADLOCK IN THE CURRENT LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

VOICE: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS EXTENDED BY ONE-DAY HIS VISIT TO WHAT HE CALLS "PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT NEGOTIATION GOING ON ANYWHERE"--THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. IF PAST KISSINGER PERFORMANCES IN DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST ARE ANY INDICATION, THE FACT OF THE EXTENSION EMPHASIZES HIS CONVICTION THAT A BREAK IN A CONTROVERSY THAT HAS DEADLOCKED THE CONFERENCE FOR SOME TIME IS IMPERATIVE. THAT CONTROVERSY CENTERS ON HOW THE WORLD IS TO DISTRIBUTE THE OCEAN'S RICHES AMONG ALL NATIONS FAIRLY. THESE INCLUDE THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, THE INDUSTRIALIZED STATES, LANDLOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES AND THE COASTAL GOVERNMENTS. THOSE RICHES INCLUDE NOT ONLY OIL, BUT MINERALS PRECIOUS TO THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIES--COPPER, NICKEL, MOLYBDENUM AND OTHERS. AND THEY THREATEN TO EXCITE A RACE FOR POSSESSION BY THE WORLD'S NATIONS REMINISCENT OF THE COLONIAL RIVALRIES OF THE PAST FEW CENTRUIES WHEN THE EUROPEAN POWERS CARVED UP VAST AREAS OF AFRICA, THE AMERICAS, AND ASIA IN THEIR QUEST FOR THE NATURAL TREASURES OF THEIR COLONIES. THOSE FORMER COLONIES ARE FREE TODAY AND THEY ARE MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD CLEARLY AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

NEITHER THOSE FORMER COLONIES NOR THEIR FORMER RULERS WANT THE BITTER COMPETITION WHICH LED TO WARS AND ECONOMIC CHAOS TO BE REPEATED NOW IN THE SEARCH FOR THE SEA'S TREASURES.

ONE OF THOSE FORMER COLONIES--THE UNITED STATES--OFFERED YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) TO HELP FINANCE AN INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY TO CONTROL EXPLOITATION OF THE WORLD'S SEABEDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL NATIONS. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IN HIS SERIES OF TALKS WITH DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE OFFERED, IN ADDITION TO FINANCING, AMERICAN TECHNICAL AID TO SUCH AN AUTHORITY IN LAUNCHING ITS OPERATIONS. UNDER THE AMERICAN FORMULA OUTLINED EARLIER, THE AUTHORITY WOULD LICENSE PRIVATE CORPORATIONS TO UNDERTAKE MINING OPERATIONS IN ONE-HALF OF THE WORLD'S SEA-BEDS, WITH THE AUTHORITY RETAINING THE OTHER HALF FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE NATIONS WITHOUT THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY TO WORK THEM.

(OPT) THE CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO END IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS -- ON SEPTEMBER SEVENTEENTH. AND THIS IMPARTED A SENSE OF URGENCY TO THE UNITED STATES PROPOSAL. (END OPT) FOR WASHINGTON IS ANXIOUS TO AVERT A SITUATION ALREADY DEVELOPING. THIS IS THE UNILATERAL EXPLOITATION OF THE SEA-BED'S RESOURCES BY PRIVATE CORPORATIONS--AT THE PRESENT TIME MOSTLY AMERICAN.

SECRETARY KISSINGER, IN SETTING FORTH THE AMERICAN COMPROMISE, CHARACTERIZED IT AS A MAJOR CONCESSION BY THE UNITED STATES TO ACHIEVE A BREAK-THROUGH IN THE SEA-BED NEGOTIATIONS. AT A SPECIAL RECEPTION FOR CONFERENCE DELEGATES HE WENT ON THE RECORD AS TELLING THEM: "TIME IS RUNNING OUT. FORCES INDEPENDENT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE DECIDING THE OCEANS' FUTURE AND THEY MAY NOT BE SATISFACTORY TO THE LARGER GLOBAL COMMUNITY INTEREST. FUTURE GENERATIONS," HE SAID, "WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT IF WE PERMIT THIS CONFERENCE TO FAIL WHEN WE ARE SO CLOSE TO AGREEMENT...THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO SUCCESS."

THE OFFERS BY THE UNITED STATES OF FINANCING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY TO CONTROL MINING OF THE WORLD'S SEA-BEDS PROVES--TO USE AN AMERICAN COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSION--THAT IT IS WILLING TO PUT ITS MONEY WHERE ITS MOUTH IS. IT IS NOW UP TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS PURSUING THE IDENTICAL AIM OF INSURING AN ORDERLY AND LEGAL WAY OF EXPLOITING THE SEA-BED TO DO LIKEWISE.

PCA/FFG